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First Presbyterian Church

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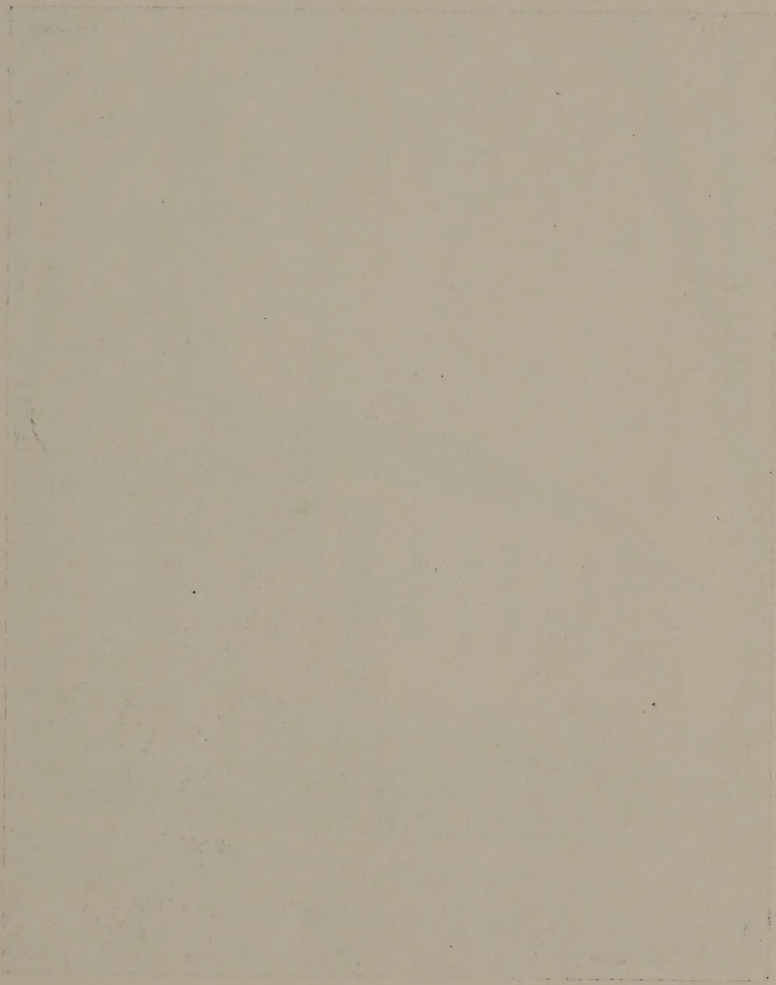
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

One hundredth anniversary

1841 - 1941

WASHINGTONVILLE
NEW YORK







FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

First Presbyterian Church

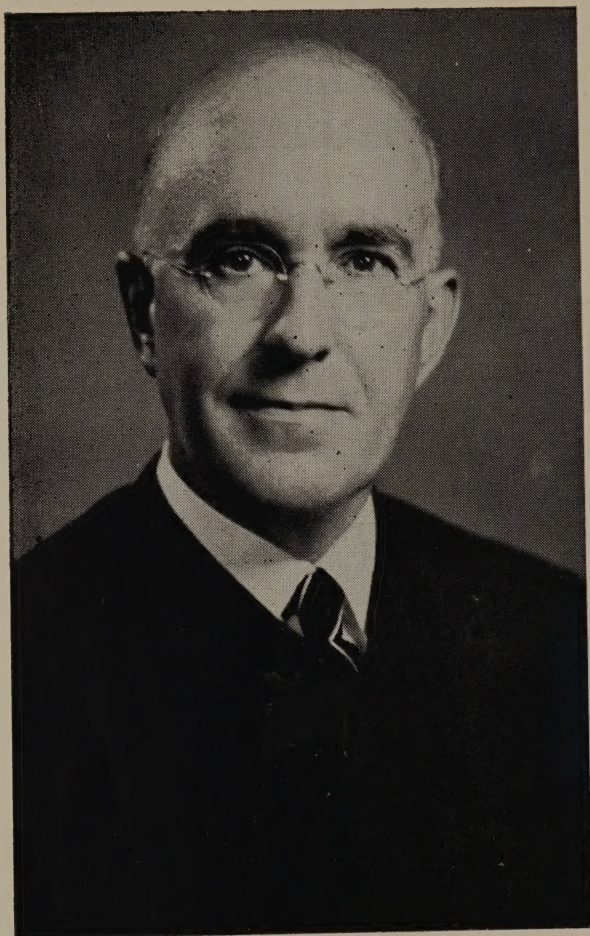
One hundredth
anniversary

1841-1941

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Washingtonville
New York



ALEXANDER MILLSPAUGH CONGER
MINISTER

Graduated from Rutgers College, (1910) A.B.;
Princeton Theological Seminary (1913) B.D.;
Studied at Princeton University (1913) M. A;
Studied at Cambridge University, England
(1914).

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Foreword

The Christian Church is the greatest institution in the world. She is the custodian of the Oracles of God. She is the champion of Christ and His Cause. She offers man deliverance from the power of sin through Christ. It is in the church that men and women have caught the vision splendid and have gone out to make the world better.

We need the comradery and fellowship of the church. From the confusion of the world we seek her portals and find there the peace of God and the love of God. Within the church we find sympathy, encouragement, and inspiration. May God bless the church. The world needs her. The destiny of our Christian civilization lies in her lap.

Jesus said
"I will build my
Church and the gates of
Hell shall not prevail
against it."

Matt. 16:18

ALEXANDER M. CONGER

—THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

Friday, September 26, 1941 7:30 p.m.

Messges from former pastors: the Rev. William M. Yeomans, the Rev. Alvin R. Pennell, the Rev. John R. Ellis.
Messges from Sons of the Church: the Rev. Wendell Prime Keeler, D. D., the Rev. Walter H. Gerow, the Rev. J. Edward Hamilton.

Reception in the Chapel.

Sunday, September 28, 1941

Morning Service 11 a.m. Sermon by the Rev. John A. MacCallum, D. D., pastor of the Walnut Street Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

Evening Service 7:45 p.m. Sermon by the Rev. R. Brewster Beattie, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, East Orange, New Jersey.

—THE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Rev. Alexander M. Conger
Mr. Joseph S. Cooper
Mr. Raymond C. Whitehead
Mrs. David H. Moffat

The history of the church

THE year 1941 is the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the First Presbyterian Church of Washingtonville. Let us therefore stand on a hilltop and cast a far look over the landscape of history—over the lives of those who came, tarried for a season here, and went on. In imagination let us traverse the years that are past, enter into the very presence of those who occupied our houses, tilled our fields, walked our streets, and worshiped God here.

Washingtonville lies in the valley of the Otterkill under the shadow of the Schunemunk mountains. The red men first discovered the beauty of this valley and dwelt here. The wigwam of Maringamus, their chief, stood on the farm now occupied by Mr. Edward Hallock. His tribe lived on this rich alluvial plain with the friendly mountains standing by. In the peaceful days they dwelt here, but in time of war they withdrew to the mountains.

The white men entered this region rather early and began clearing the land for farming. A church was erected at Goshen in 1724, and one at Bethlehem in 1730, but we find no record of a village at Washingtonville at that time. "*The Olde Store on the Corner*" now owned by Walter D. Owen, was built in 1812, and the village of Washingtonville began to grow. It became the trading center for the people of the surrounding countryside.

The first records of the Church are written in the clear and cultured hand of the Rev. Henry Belden, its first minister, who gives us this picture of the founding of the Church. *"Several individuals of Washingtonville and vicinity feeling the need of having the stated ordinances of the Gospel, secured, on the 1st of May, 1841, the ministerial labours of Rev. Henry Belden, preparatory to the organization of a Church. The church was organized by a committee of the Hudson Presbytery on Tuesday August tenth of the same year. The committee consisted of Rev. William Timlow and Rev. Isaac C. Beach, Ministers and Messrs. Saml T. Scott and Moses Sawyer, Elders. The following is a list of the members who were organized into the Church—viz David H. Moffat, Charles Gregg, and James White from the Church of Bethlehem; Chas. A. Hulse and Sarah F. Hulse, his wife from Spring Street Church, New York City; Warren Halsey from the Church of West Town; Wm. H. Rumsey and Obadiah Rumsey from the Associate Reformed Church, Little Britain; Mrs. Julia Ann Parker from the First Presbyterian Church of Wantage, N. J., Mrs. Esther Reeve, Miss Ann Reeve, Miss Almira L. Many and Mrs. Huldah C. Satterly from the Presbyterian Church of Chester; Mrs. Lydia Breed, Mrs. Elizabeth Halsey, Miss Abigail Curtis, Mrs. Chloe Houser, Mrs. Rachel Rumsey, Mrs. Louisa Moffat, James Curtis, and Solon Halsey from the Church of Blooming Grove; Wm. H. Forbes on Profession of his Faith. David H. Moffat, Chas. Gregg, Chas. A. Hulse and Warren Halsey were elected Ruling Elders. Mr. Moffat had been a Ruling Elder in the Church of Bethlehem. The others were ordained to that office."*

Of the twenty-two charter members twenty-one came by letter and one on profession of faith; that is, all but one were members of churches elsewhere. Of the next one hundred and twelve received, only five came by letter and one hundred and seven by profession of faith. This indicates that there was a large number of people in Washingtonville with no church connection. Our conclusion, therefore, is that a little group of active Christians in the community felt there ought to be a church in this village to shepherd the flock and gather the sheep into the fold. From the

full and scholarly character of the minutes kept by Mr. Belden and from the large number of accessions to membership it is evident that he was an able and earnest man. During the three years of his ministry he received one hundred and thirty-four into the fellowship of the Church.

The early growth of the Church was due to the character of its elders as well as the character of its minister. They felt that they were under-shepherds of the flock, for under the date of March 30, 1843, it is recorded in the minutes; "*The Session divided the Church into four districts for the purpose of having the whole church visited by the elders every two months.*"

Mr. David H. Moffat, the grandfather of Mr. David H. Moffat of our village today, owned and occupied the farm recently purchased by Messrs. John and Hallock Gerow. From the Sessional records it is evident that he was a man of character, ability, and great devotion to the Church. He was an elder for twenty-two years and a trustee for sixteen years; and he rarely missed a meeting of the Session.

Mr. Charles A. Hulse was another able and loyal elder of the Church, serving in that capacity for sixteen years. He lived at Lincolndale and owned the watch factory on the road between Lincolndale and Burnside. When he drove to Church on Sunday morning it was his custom to bring many of his employees with him.

The other two original elders, Mr. Charles Gregg and Mr. Warren Halsey were also faithful officers but served for shorter terms.

On June 25, 1843, the session was enlarged by the election of two new elders namely, Mr. Nathan Strong and Mr. John Jaques. During the succeeding years four men from this family served on the Session of the Church—Mr. John Jaques, Sr., Mr. John Jaques, Jr., Mr. Oren Jaques, and Mr. Charles Jaques. Mr. John Jaques, Sr. was an elder for thirty-three years and a trustee for sixteen years.

—REV. PHINEAS ROBINSON 1844-1847

After three years of service the Rev. Henry Belden was succeeded by the Rev. Phineas Robinson who served the Church from

1844 to 1847. In the last year of his ministry the present Church edifice was erected. For the first six years of its life the congregation had no building, but held its services in the old Academy which stood, until destroyed by fire, on the site of our former school. Early in the year 1847 steps were taken toward securing a suitable lot for erecting a church edifice. The first lot considered was one on North Street just below the School lane, evidently the property now owned by Miss Elizabeth Moran. At this juncture Mr. Charles E. Brooks offered the congregation the spacious lot on Goshen Avenue where the Church stands today, and the offer was accepted with deep appreciation.

In 1846 when the church membership was one hundred and twenty-four the happy course of its history was disturbed. Thirty three members withdrew to form the Free Congregational Church of Washingtonville, under the leadership of the Rev. Henry Belden. For one year they worshiped in a building on the south side of East Main Street. When this was destroyed by fire, they erected an edifice on the opposite side of the street, which eight years later was sold to the Methodist Episcopal Church, and which today is the Grange Hall.

On April 5, 1847, a meeting was held to incorporate the church for the holding of its property. Mr. Jonathan Owen presided and the following Trustees were elected; David H. Moffat, John Jaques, Mr. Charles A. Hulse, Walter Halsey, Edmund S. Howell, James Thorpe, and Charles S. Pitts. A Building Committee was chosen consisting of David H. Moffat, Charles A. Hulse, John Jaques, James Thorpe, John Nicoll, F. H. Brewster, and Charles E. Brooks. In 1847 the Church was built and this date with the name of the mason, Mr. James White, may be seen on the cornerstone of the building. Mr. John MacCrag was the builder. The heavy oak timbers came from the farm of Mr. David H. Moffat. The first bell installed became cracked and the present sweet toned bell was the gift of Mr. John Nicoll.

Our church edifice is a tribute to the character and artistic taste of its early members. It is a beautiful example of the Renaissance or Colonial type of architecture which Sir Christopher Wren made so popular. Sir Christopher Wren was the builder of St. Paul's Cathedral in London. After the London fire he built

fifty-three churches in the city, many of them in the Renaissance style. When the English colonists came to New England and built their village churches, as a rule they were the Renaissance type of church. This type is patterned after the Greek architecture of which the Parthenon is the classic example. If you picture in your imagination, the Parthenon with a cupola or spire on one end you have a vision of the Renaissance or Colonial Church. The distinctive features of this type are its perfect proportions — the ratio between its length and breadth and height, and its beautiful facade of Grecian pillars. A stately church edifice is a witness to all who pass by — a witness to the faith and devotion of its members.

—REV. LUTHER HALSEY 1848-1856

In 1848 the Rev. Luther Halsey, D. D. was called to the Church. It is interesting to note that he had been pastor of the Blooming Grove Church from 1816 to 1824 and during his ministry there the present church edifice at Blooming Grove was built. Dr. Halsey went from Blooming Grove to the Chair of Chemistry and Natural History at Princeton. From Princeton he went to the Chair of Ecclesiastical History and Church Polity in the Western Theological Seminary and later to a similar Chair at Auburn. In 1848 he was called to this Church where he remained for eight years. During his ministry the first parsonage was purchased from the Rev. Henry Belden. It was the house on North Street next to the present Manse and now owned by David H. Moffat. The purchase included seven acres of land, five acres of which were taken for the Cemetery. Ten years later seven more acres were added to the Cemetery. The last enlargement of the Cemetery was by the purchase of the old school grounds in 1935. Dr. Halsey was a gifted preacher. The Rev. Dr. Page of the Episcopal Church spoke of him as the best read man he had met in twenty years.

During Dr. Halsey's ministry a second division occurred in the Church. There were two parties in the General Assembly — the New School and the Old School. Dr. Halsey disagreed with some action of the General Assembly and desired to change this

Church from New School to Old. Some of the members of the congregation were ready to follow their ministerial guide while others preferred no change. The division was so nearly equal that it was uncertain for a time which should retain the possession of the property. In 1857 Dr. Halsey and some of the members withdrew and formed the Second Presbyterian Church, erecting an edifice on North Street, long known as the Brown Church. A manse was built on West Main Street, the house now owned by Mr. Charles Green. The Second Church continued for about thirty years and then disbanded. This second split from the mother church reduced her membership to forty. Evidently the other two churches in the village had about the same membership each. A situation that must have been a cause of sorrow to many earnest hearts. It is sometimes said today "There used to be three churches in Washingtonville — the White Church, the Brown Church, and the Methodist Church — and now we have only one." That statement sounds like "a counsel of despair", but it is not. No, religion in Washingtonville was not advanced by these divisions in the church and it is a cause for thanksgiving that the three churches have now become one, working in harmony and unity for the advancement of Christ's kingdom.

Since the life and character of a church depends as much upon the faith of her people as upon the faith of her pastor, we should say something here of a family that was deeply interested in everything concerning the Church. It was at just this time, 1857, that Mr. Robert Denniston became an elder. The Dennistons, Clintons, Morrisons and Mulliners came over from Ireland about the middle of the eighteenth century and settled in Orange County. The Dennistons were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. Robert Denniston occupied the farm on the flat lands just east of the village which is now occupied by Frank Greak. The large stone house in which he dwelt was destroyed by fire about 1923. He became Comptroller of the State of New York and was familiarly known as Judge Denniston. He had eleven children. Five of his sons were volunteers in the Civil War and two of them died as a result of the war. James Otis Denniston, after the war, entered the ministry and Henry Martin Denniston became a Rear Admiral in the Navy. Augustus Denniston who was also in the war, inherited the farm

and was an elder of this Church for fifty years—from 1868 to 1918. In 1900 the family presented the Church with the Chapel which was built as a memorial to Mrs. Robert Denniston, whose picture hangs within it.

—REV. DANIEL HIGBIE 1858-1867

In 1858 the Rev. Daniel Higbie became pastor of the First Church and continued as such for nine years. At the close of Mr. Higbie's ministry in 1867, the membership of the Church had increased to fifty-eight. The meeting of the Session May 10, 1867 was moderated by the Rev. James R. Lente, "*Mr. Higbie being sick*". On October 21, 1867, Mr. Higbie died and Mr. Lente supplied the pulpit and moderated the Session for a year. Mr. Lente was the father of Mrs. Gilbert Gerow, who throughout her life was deeply interested in the work of the Church.

—REV. JOHN V. GRISWOLD 1868-1871

The Rev. John V. Griswold became pastor of the Church in 1868. His pastorate was for only three years, but he had an evangelistic spirit and greatly enriched and quickened the life of the Church. Under the date of November 2, 1868, it is recorded, "*The Session met at the home of Mr. John Jaques, Sr.. After a full and free discussion of the spiritual interests of the Church the session decided to make an extra effort by prayer and individual exertion for the reviving of the Spirit of the Lord in our midst. The meeting closed with prayer by John Jaques, Sr.*"

Under the date of December 14, 1869, it is recorded, "*A committee consisting of the minister and one elder was chosen to confer with a like committee from the Second Church on the subject of a union effort for the advancement of the Cause of Christ in our midst.*" As a result, in February, union evangelistic meetings were held for three weeks, with the Rev. C. Parker assisting. The two churches were revived, many old prejudices were removed, and some sixty people converted.

On February 23, 1870, a Congregational meeting was held in

the First Church to consider the matter of a union of the two Presbyterian churches in the village. A joint committee from the churches was chosen and they arranged for union prayer meetings to be held once a month for the special purpose of promoting the union of the two churches. The first Monday evening of every month was chosen as the time for the meetings. Such events prove that there were earnest hearts working in the right direction, but their prayers were not to be answered for many years.

It was during the pastorate of Mr. Griswold that the Women's Missionary Society of Washingtonville was founded in 1871. The Presbyterial Society for the Presbytery of Hudson was organized in 1881. Our society, therefore, has the honor of being ten years older than the Presbyterial organization and one of the first societies in the Presbytery. We should rejoice in its healthful condition today and in the splendid work it accomplishes each year.

—REV. JAMES B. BEAUMONT 1871-1882

In 1871, the Rev. James B. Beaumont became pastor and continued in that office for eleven years. He brought the membership of the Church up to one hundred and twenty and the membership of the Sunday School to one hundred. The elders of the Church at this time were Charles G. Cooper, Hector Moffat, Augustus Denniston, Oren C. Jaques, and Charles Jaques. It was during Mr. Beaumont's ministry that the present Manse was erected on land belonging to the first manse. It was built by Mr. Nelson Greene, who later took the gallery out of the Church and remodeled the front entrance, and in 1900 built the Chapel. Mr. Greene was always generous in what he did for the Church. If he did much for the church in a material way he did more in a spiritual. Mr. Beaumont was called from this pastorate to the Presbyterian Church of Chatham, N. J., in 1882.

—REV. GEORGE W. MORRILL 1882-1884

The Rev. George W. Morrill was called to the ministry of the Church in 1882 and remained only two years. There seems to

be little to relate of some years of the Church's life, but let us remember it is difficult to recount spiritual achievements. Men and women have gone to church on quiet Sabbath days with their own spiritual needs and have found there the faith that works miracles in their lives.

During the interim from 1884 to 1886 the Session was moderated by the Rev. James R. Lente and the pulpit occupied by various supplies and candidates.

—REV. JOSEPH GREENLEAF 1886-1898

In 1886 the Rev. Joseph Greenleaf began his work here and carried on for twelve years. His was the longest pastorate in the history of the Church until that date. During his ministry the membership of the Church reached one hundred and seventy-two and the membership of the Sunday School one hundred and thirty-two, the highest level reached up to that time. This growth was due in part to the closing of the Second Presbyterian Church, and many of the members bringing their letters to the First Church.

Mr. Joseph Greenleaf was descended from Captain Edmund Greenleaf who came from England to Newbury, Mass. in 1635. He graduated from Columbia University in 1860, from Princeton Seminary in 1863, was pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Palisades, N. Y., from 1863 to 1866; the Presbyterian Church of Bordentown, N. J., from 1866 to 1871; the Congregational Church of New Canaan, Conn., from 1871 to 1886; and the Presbyterian Church of Washingtonville from 1886 to 1898. He married Miss Mary H. Ritch of New York City in 1863. He died in the pastorate here at the age of sixty. In a Resolution passed by the Session at the time of his death they commended "*his faithfulness and ability as a preacher of the Gospel.*"

—REV. WILLIAM M. YEOMANS 1898-1902

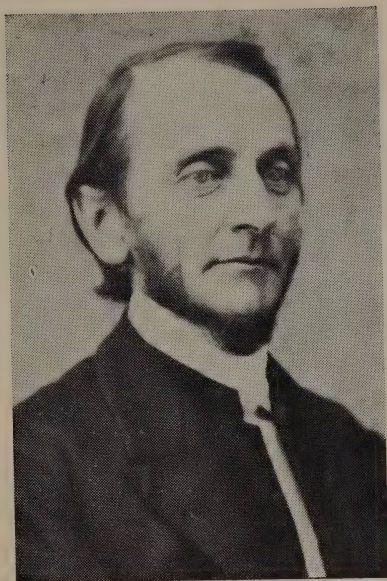
On March 30, 1898, the Rev. William M. Yeomans was called to the pastorate of this Church and continued as such for four years. In the year 1900 the present sweet-toned organ was purchased and

it has led the music of the sanctuary since that day. It is of interest to note that Mr. Nelson Greene was Choir Master at the time.

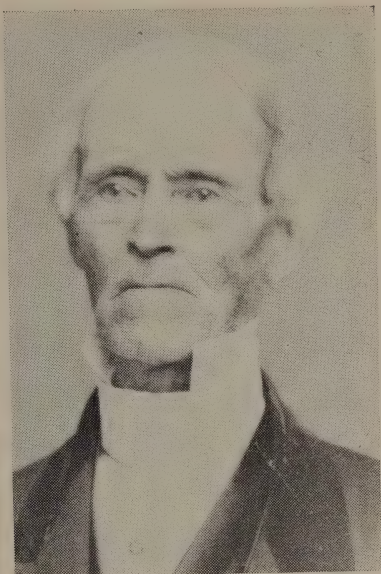
It was at first decided to build a small addition on the Church to accomodate the organ. After considerable discussion the value of a Chapel became increasingly apparent and Mr. and Mrs. Bradner Cameron offered to give the Church twenty feet of land for such a Chapel. Mr. Augustus Denniston presented the offer of his family to give the Chapel as a Memorial to Mrs. Robert Denniston. At the next meeting of the Trustees an offer was presented from Mrs. Alice A. Hallock and Miss Elizabeth A. Hallock to furnish the Chapel completely. Letters were sent to these benefactors expressing the Church's deep appreciation of their generosity and loyalty to the cause of Christ in this community. Upon the installation of the organ, several applications were received for permission to practice on it, but the trustees decided to limit the number to three; namely, Mrs. J. F. Dusenberry, Mr. George Kershaw, and Miss Louise Howell.

At this time the congregation considered the organizing of a church for the Colored people of Washingtonville. For about a year the Rev. William A. Lynch conducted the work, then under date of October 14, 1901, we find the following entry in the minutes. *"It was resolved that the pastor write Mr. Sewell that the Session would like to have him come here at our expense and look over the field in view of taking charge of the Mission work in our community."* On October 27, the Rev. Perry W. Sewell of Baltimore preached in Merritt Hall, the room now occupied by the Harrison Press. A call was extended to him by the Session and it was accepted by him. For five years he conducted services in Merritt Hall, then the present property was purchased and Mr. Sewell moved thither. Elder Frank Dusenberry was appointed to supervise the work and did so in a very sympathetic and enthusiastic way for many years. For several years this Church was responsible for his salary, until his own people with the Board of National Missions took over the responsibility. Mr. Sewell has had a long and faithful ministry here. He has built up a strong Church with a flourishing Sunday School and Christian Endeavor Society. He has the esteem and affection of his own congregation and the entire community.

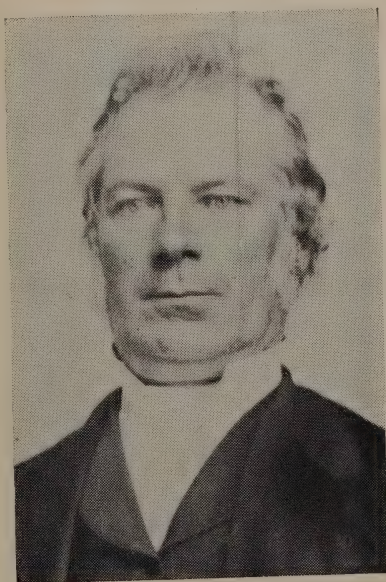
FOUR FORMER MINISTERS



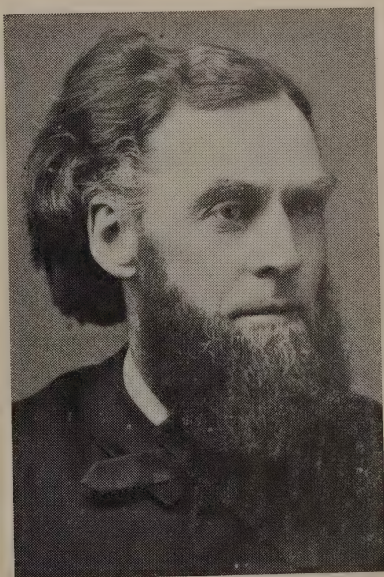
REV. HENRY BELDEN



REV. LUTHER HALSEY, D.D.

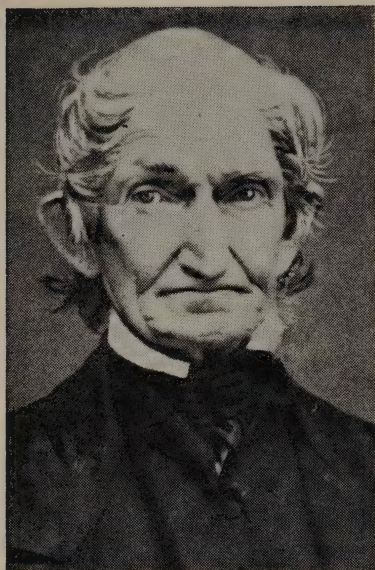


REV. DANIEL HIGBIE

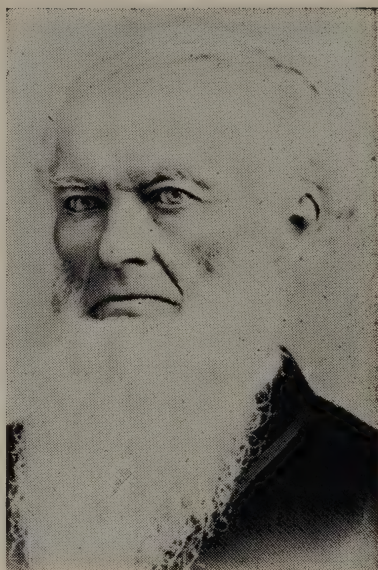


REV. JAMES B. BEAUMONT

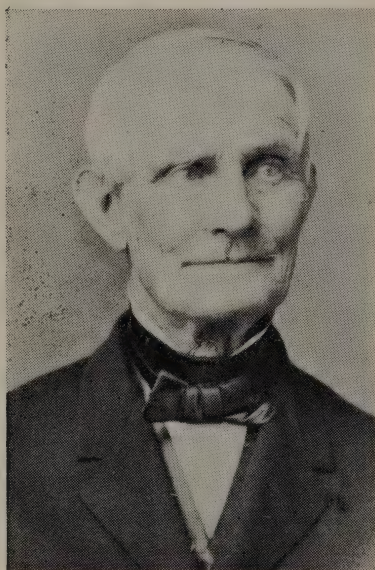
FOUR OF THE FIRST OFFICERS



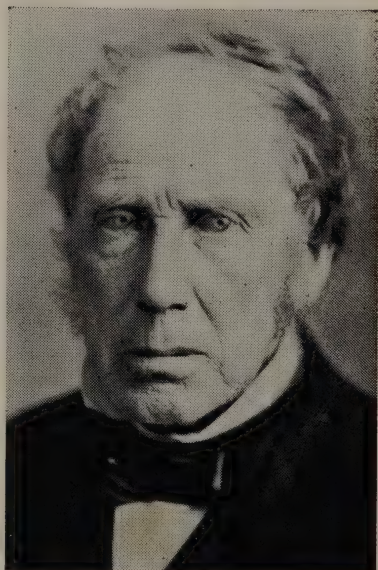
DAVID H. MOFFAT



CHARLES A. HULSE

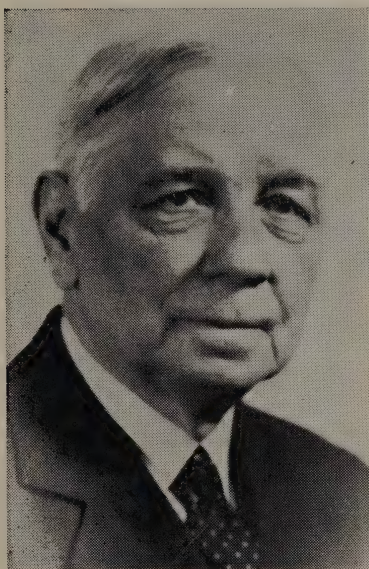


JOHN JAQUES, SR.

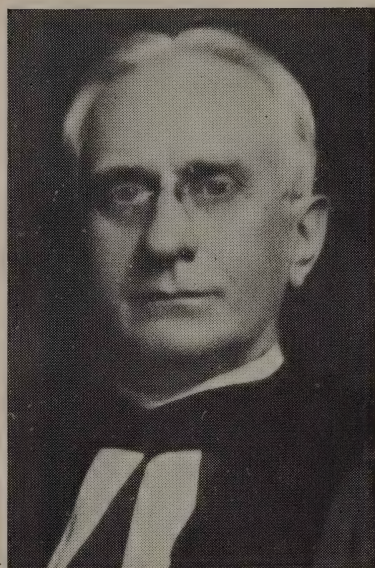


JOHN NICOLL

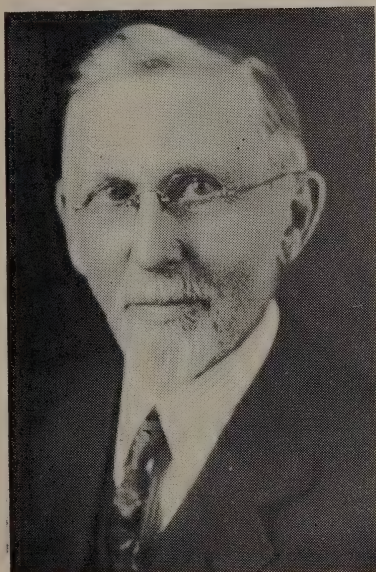
FOUR LIVING FORMER MINISTERS



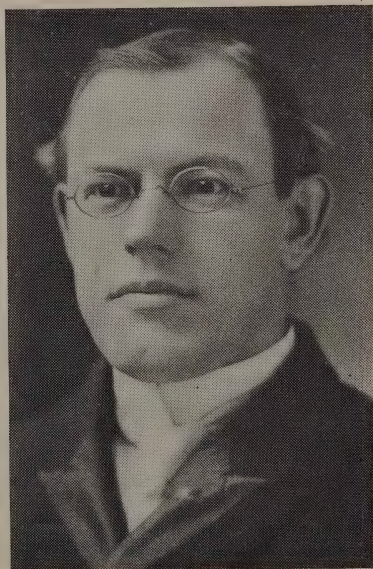
REV. WILLIAM M. YEOMANS



REV. JOHN A. MACCALLUM, D.D.



REV. ALVIN R. PENNELL



REV. JOHN R. ELLIS

FOUR SONS OF THE CHURCH



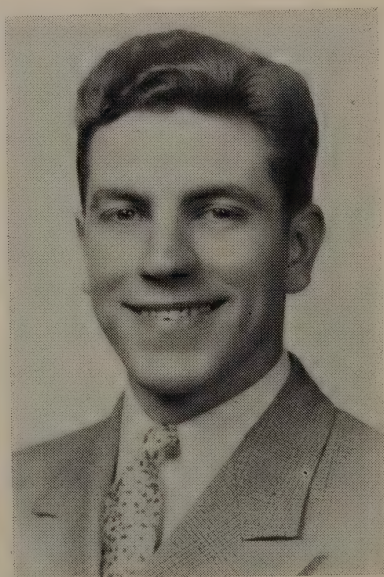
REV. WENDELL PRIME KEELER



REV. WALTER H. GEROW



REV. J. EDWARD HAMILTON



C. DEMING GEROW

In 1902 Mr. Yeomans resigned from this Church taking up work in Philadelphia. Edward Gearhart Yeomans, his third son, was born at Washingtonville and is now pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Springfield, Pa.

—REV. JOHN A. MAC CALLUM 1903-1907

At the congregational meeting held April 28, 1903 a Call was extended to Mr. MacCallum. Mr. William H. Hallock moved that they proceed to call a pastor and Mr. Thomas Fulton moved that the Call be made unanimous.

The first four received into the Church during this pastorate were Miss Maud McKinney, Miss Martha Cooper, Miss Florence Owen, and Miss Katherine Hallock.

The County Y. M. C. A. held its Annual Convention in the Church in March 1904. In 1904 the Ladies Aid Society presented the Church with an individual Communion Service, and in 1906 with new Presbyterian Hymnals.

Upon Mr. MacCallum's resignation a resolution was adopted by the Session which read in part as follows: *"Whereas our Moderator and Pastor, Rev. John A. MacCallum, has resigned the pastorate of this Church and we are probably met for the last time together as members of this session. . Therefore, resolved that we do most sincerely regret this separation and desire to express our warmest love and esteem for our Pastor and shall ever remember that all our meetings during the four years have been held with perfect unity. We recognize him as a most able preacher of the blessed gospel and we hope and pray that the seed which has been sown may bear much fruit."*

Mr. MacCallum graduated from Queens University, Canada in 1899 and from Union Theological Seminary, New York in 1903. He was ordained and installed at Washingtonville the same year. He is the twenty-third member of immediate family connection to be ordained to the Presbyterian ministry. In 1907 Mr. MacCallum went to the First Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill, Pa., and in 1910 to the Walnut Street Church of Philadelphia where he is still the pastor. He has been president of the Philadelphia Housing

Association, a member of the Temple University Board of Trustees, Editor of the Presbyterian Tribune, and a member of the Board of the Presbyterian Ministers Fund. He writes a weekly Saturday sermonette for the Philadelphia Record. He is a member of the "*Fight For Freedom Committee*" and of the "*Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies.*"

—REV. ALVIN R. PENNELL 1908-1914

The Rev. Alvin R. Pennell became pastor of this Church in 1908. Mr. Pennell graduated from Auburn Seminary in 1894 and was installed that summer as pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Cato, N. Y. In 1899 he was called to the First Presbyterian Church of Holyoke, Mass. In 1908 he came to Washingtonville where he remained until 1914. Since that time he has been a publisher of a newspaper at Honesdale, Pa.

In 1912 the Church received a bequest of five thousand dollars from Mrs. Sara W. Baker which was deposited in the bank as an endowment fund.

—REV. W. AUGUST GEORGE 1914-1918

At a congregational meeting October 5, 1914, the Church voted to call the Rev. W. August George to the pastorate. Mr. George graduated from Hartford Seminary in 1887. He was the assistant pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Rutherford, N. J. from 1899 to 1892. Several pastorates followed in New Jersey and New York until 1914 when Mr. George came to this church. His pastorate at Washingtonville coincided with the period of the war and the patriotic spirit ran high. A request was received from the Red Cross to use the Church once a week and, of course, the request was granted. In 1916 the Church received a legacy of two thousand dollars from Miss Elizabeth Hallock, which was added to the endowment fund.

After leaving Washingtonville Mr. George was pastor at Harmony, N. J., and Windsor, N. Y.. He died at Windsor in 1932.

—REV. FREDERICK J. STANLEY 1919-1920

The Rev. Frederick J. Stanley, D. D. supplied the pulpit from 1919 to 1920.

—REV. JOHN R. ELLIS 1920-1924

The Rev. John R. Ellis was called to the pastorate of the Church in 1920. Mr. Ellis graduated with a degree from London University in 1887 and came immediately to America. He was ordained at Centralia, July 7, 1887. He took special courses in Philosophy and Literature at Indiana University while pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Bloomington, Ind. He preached the Tercentenary sermon commemorating the landing of the Pilgrims at Provincetown, Mass., in 1920. He has served several churches in New York and Pennsylvania and is now residing at Glens Falls, N. Y., where he has supplied various churches.

At a congregational meeting November 19, 1922 three new elders were added to the Session; Mr. A. D. Mulliner, Mr. Walter D. Owen, and Mr. Joseph S. Cooper.

—REV. ALEXANDER M. CONGER 1924-

The present pastor received a unanimous call to the Church at a congregational meeting August 18, 1924. Before Mr. Conger began his work in November 1924 the Ladies Aid Society redecorated the interior of the Manse and painted the exterior.

During the next two years many needed improvements were made to the Church property. The Trustees with the cooperation of the Ladies Aid Society painted both the interior and exterior of the Church, put a new roof on the Church and installed a pipeless furnace.

In the year 1925 the Methodist Episcopal Church having decided to disband, fifteen of its members brought their letters to this Church and some of them have been among the most faithful and active workers of the Church. Such a transfer to another denomination in the community requires magnanimity and

devotion to the cause of Christ.

In the succeeding years many things have been done to make the church more beautiful and useful; a new carpet was laid, the cushions recovered, new hymn books purchased, two sets of new song books have been purchased for the Sunday School, chairs for the dining room and childrens chairs for the Primary Department of the Sunday School. A new entrance to the chapel and basement has been built, a baptismal font purchased and hard wood floors have been laid in the Manse.

In 1934 Mrs. James Burnett left the Church a legacy of two thousand dollars which was used for the installation of an oil burning, steam heating plant, which has heated the church perfectly since its installation. It is difficult to imagine any gift that could do more to make the worship of the sanctuary enjoyable.

In the Spring of 1940 the Church sheds were removed and the men of the church under the leadership of Mr. Thomas Findlay, President of the Trustees, converted that area into an attractive parking ground bordered by evergreen trees. In the Summer of 1940 the Church was rewired, a handsome brass chandelier installed, and the church interior restored to the true type for a colonial church.

One hundred and sixty one members have been received into the fellowship of the Church during this pastorate. After placing twenty-seven names on the Suspended or Absentee list, the Church has a membership of one hundred and eighty five which is the largest membership in its history.

The Sunday School has an enrollment of one hundred and two officers and pupils; its sessions are well attended and we have a group of capable and loyal teachers and officers. The Primary Department holds its sessions in the basement, and for several years has been very ably conducted by Mrs. Herald Hosking.

The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor holds its meetings every Sunday evening and its programs are very practical and helpful. Delegates are sent each year to Young People's conferences where they gain inspiration and enthusiasm for the home work. This organization has presented the church with the silk American flag for the pulpit, installed an acousticon, and given lights for the exterior of the building. They contribute generous-

ly each year to the Boards of Foreign and National Missions. The Orange County Christian Endeavor Union was organized in this Church April 23rd, 1892 and plans are being made to observe its fiftieth anniversary here in 1942. The Juniors also have their Christian Endeavor Society which was organized in 1925 and has been carrying on faithfully ever since. In addition to their regular annual gifts to the Foreign and National Missions Boards they have purchased a used piano for the Chapel and as their share in the restoration of the Church last year gave the Colonial lantern in the vestibule.

The Womens Missionary Society of the Church has had a splendid history. It has done much to stimulate an interest in missions and has met a generous quota yearly as its contribution to the preaching of the gospel on the mission field.

For many years the Church has had a splendid choir that has rendered sweet music in Zion. Since the gospel is good news, it lends itself well to music, and our Church is unusually fortunate in having a group of singers who make this generous contribution to the service of public worship.

As this historical account comes to an end I realize that the names of many of the most faithful members of the Church have not been mentioned. There are men and women, officers and members of the Church, whose names I have come upon in the preparation of this record, whose loyalty to Christ is so great that I have paused a moment to thank God for them.

As we look forward to the future of the Church let us pray that she may stand in awe before the magnificence of God, that she may rejoice "*that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself*", and that the Holy Spirit may fill us all with the fullness of God.

"O where are kings and empires now
Of old that went and came?
But, Lord, Thy church is praying yet,
A thousand years the same."

—FOUR SONS OF THE CHURCH IN MINISTRY

One of the facts in which the Washingtonville Church should rejoice is that four of its sons have gone into the Gospel ministry.

—REV. WENDELL PRIME KEELER

The Rev. Wendell Prime Keeler graduated from Yale College in 1897, studied theology at Auburn Theological Seminary and at Oxford University, England. Mr. Keeler took his letter from this Church to the Presbytery of Binghamton when he was ordained to the Presbyterian ministry November 9, 1900. His first church was in Madison, N. J., where he remained for ten years. Then he was called to the historic First Congregational Church of Northampton, Mass., where his congregation was marked by a large attendance of Smith College students. It was during his stay in Northampton that he started his participation in student conferences in various parts of the United States, and his preaching in many college pulpits. He was called to the First Presbyterian Church of Yonkers, N. Y., in January, 1918, where he still is serving faithfully. Mr. Keeler is a former Moderator of the Synod of New York, a former Moderator of the Presbytery of Westchester, and a former member of the Presbyterian Board of National Missions.

—REV. WALTER HAVILAND GEROW

The Rev. Walter Haviland Gerow, a member of this Church, served during the World War with the YMCA in France and Italy. He graduated from the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago in August 1921; did National Mission work for the Presbyterian Church at Towaoc, Colorado, and Ganado, Arizona; settled at Luverne, Minnesota where he did evangelistic work and was ordained to the ministry in 1939. Mr. Gerow has recently returned to the home of his childhood in Washingtonville.

—REV. J. EDWARD HAMILTON

The Rev. J. Edward Hamilton graduated from Tusculum College in 1930; he studied at the University of Alabama in 1931 and the University of Tennessee in 1931-1932 and received an M.A. degree; he was awarded a Duke University Fellowship in 1932-1933; and received a B.D. degree upon graduation from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1936. In July 1936 Mr. Hamilton was ordained as Minister and installed as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Nyack, N. Y., where he faithfully serves the church and community.

—C. DEMING GEROW

C. Deming Gerow graduated from Columbia Bible College, Columbia, S. C. in 1940 with the degree of B.A. in Biblical Education. During the past year he has been teaching in the Ben Lippon Boys School, Asheville, N. C. and leading the choir in an Asheville Church. He expects to do full time Christian work.

—PASTORS

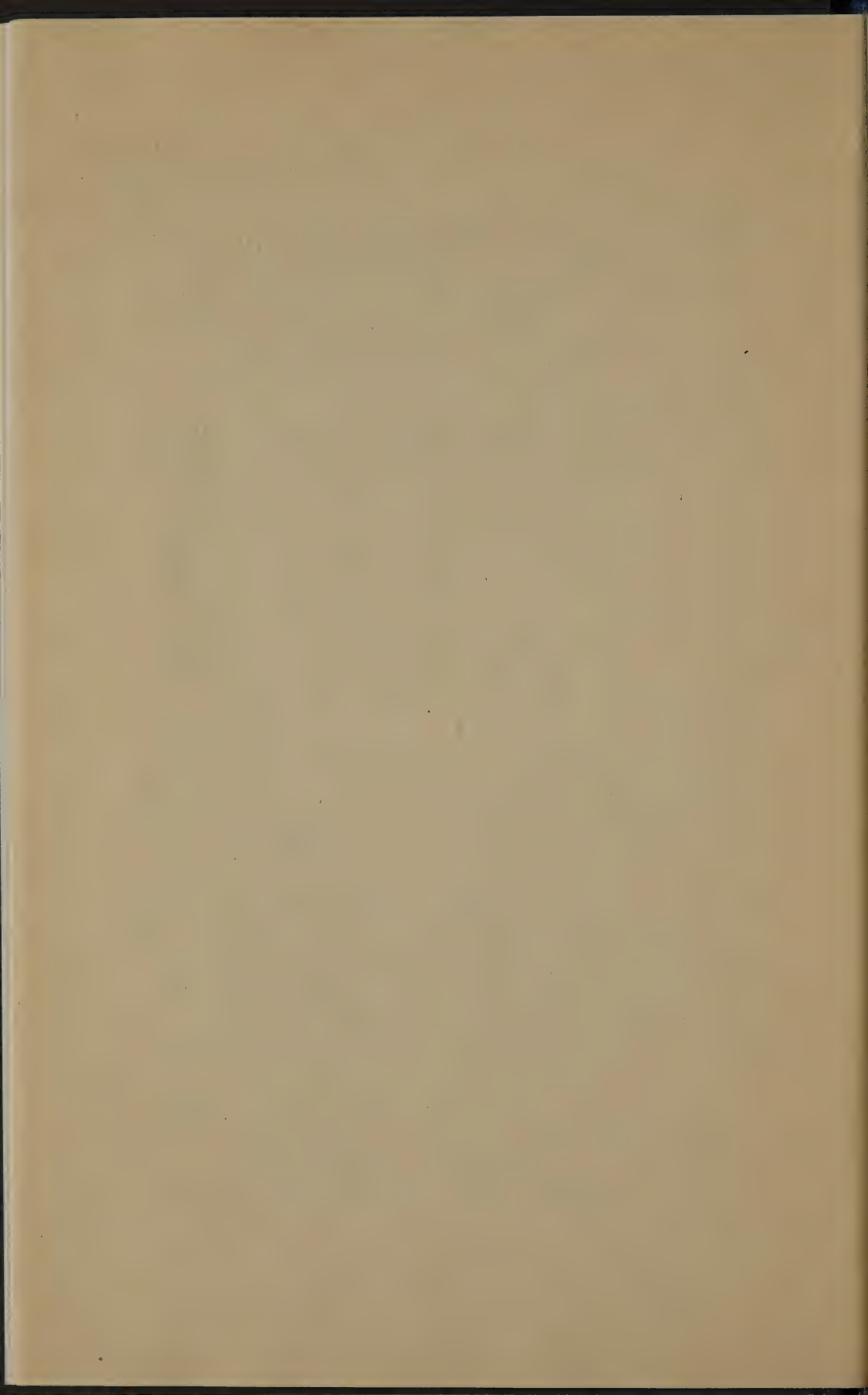
- *Rev. Henry Belden, Stated Supply, 1841-1844
- *Rev. Phineas Robinson, Stated Supply, 1844-1847
- *Rev. Luther Halsey, D. D., Stated Supply, 1848-1856
- *Rev. Daniel Higbie, Pastor, 1858-1867
- *Rev. James R. Lente, Stated Supply, 1867-68
- *Rev. John V. Griswold, Pastor, 1868-1871
- *Rev. James B. Beaumont, Pastor, 1871-1882
- *Rev. George W. Morrill, Stated Supply, 1882-1884
- *Rev. Joseph Greenleaf, Pastor, 1886-1898
- Rev. William M. Yeomans, Pastor, 1898-1902
- Rev. John A. MacCallum, Pastor, 1903-1907
- Rev. Alvin R. Pennell, Pastor, 1908-1914
- *Rev. W. August George, Pastor, 1914-1918
- *Rev. Frederick J. Stanley, D. D., L.H.D.,
Stated Supply, 1919-1920
- Rev. John R. Ellis, Pastor, 1920-1924
- Rev. Alexander M. Conger, Pastor, 1924-

—ELDERS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| *David H. Moffat, 1841-63 | *Nathaniel Roe, 1900-28 |
| *Charles Gregg, 1841-46 | *J. Frank Dusenberry, 1900-30 |
| *Charles A. Hulse, 1841-57 | *John G. Brooks, 1900-28 |
| *Warren Halsey, 1841-46 | *H. Nelson Greene, 1913-31 |
| *Nathaniel Strong, 1843-46 | *Augustus D. Mulliner, 1922-34 |
| *John Jaques, Sr., 1843-76 | William J. Ross, 1934-40 |
| *Robert Denniston, 1857-67 | G. Westcott Gerow, 1927-36 |
| *John Jaques, Jr., 1857-68 | *John A. Van deMark, 1934-39 |
| *John C. Warner, 1868-76 | Joseph S. Cooper, 1922- |
| *Oren C. Jaques, 1868-85 | Walter D. Owen, 1922- |
| *Augustus Denniston, 1868-1918 | Charles Overfield, 1927- |
| *Charles Jaques, 1878-1912 | Herald E. Hosking, 1929- |
| *Hector Moffat, 1878-87 | Lyman A. Gerow, 1929- |
| *Charles G. Cooper, 1878-95 | Paul M. Traub, M. D., 1938- |
| *J. Wilson Brown, 1891-94 | Augustus H. Wood, 1940- |
| *Charles H. Breed, 1913-19 | Johannes Bakker, 1940- |
| *Charles McKinney, 1891-1923 | |

—TRUSTEES

- *David H. Moffat, Sr., 1847-63
- *James Thorpe, 1847-59
- *Charles Pitts, 1847-50
- *John Jaques, Sr., 1855-73
- *Walter Halsey, 1855-61
- *John Nicoll, 1856-59
- *Elliott Strong, 1856-59
- *Edmund S. Howell, 1856-59
- *Charles H. Thompson, 1856-57
- *Charles A. Hulse, 1856-57
- *Robert Denniston, 1857-66
- *William P. Foster, 1857-60
- *Charles E. Brooks, 1857-72
- *Thompson Ball, 1859-71
- *Henry C. Breed, 1859-62
- *Morris G. Conklin, 1860-80
- *Fletcher B. Brooks, 1862-67
- *John C. Warner, 1863-74
- *Augustus Denniston, 1868-1913
- *Hector Moffat, 1870-85
- *Henry C. Griggs, 1872-75
- *Franklin Mulliner, 1875-1905
- *Charles G. Cooper, 1875-90
- *David G. Belknap, 1876-82
- *James B. Howell, 1877-88
- *William R. Brooks, 1878-1913
- *William D. Brooks, 1883-92
- *William H. Hallock, 1884-88
- *Thomas L. Brooks, 1887-99
- *George A. Owen, 1888-1915
- *Nathaniel Roe, 1891-1906
- *Charles McKinney, 1891-1915
- *Gilbert H. Gerow, 1893-96
- *H. Nelson Greene, 1898-1913
- Thomas Fulton, 1896-1917
- *James Miller, 1902-05
- *Edward J. McLaughlin, Sr.
1905-38
- *Augustus D. Mulliner, 1908-34
- Whitfield H. Bull, 1909-39
- Walter D. Owen, 1913-40
- Herbert E. Wright, 1913-17
- Augustus H. Wood, 1914-39
- G. Westcott Gerow, 1915-33
- *Elmer E. Hosking, 1917-38
- William G. Ross, 1919-38
- William C. Cooper, 1921-40
- Herald E. Hosking, 1933-39
- Frank Elston, 1934-41
- Everett Y. Dusenberry, 1938-41
- Edward J. McLaughlin, Jr.,
1938-41
- John F. Board, 1939-40
- Thomas Findlay, 1939-
- David H. Moffat, 1939
- R. Lynn Taft, 1939
- Raymond C. Whitehead, 1940
- Esten Tickner, 1940
- William J. Ross, 1940
- John T. Van deMark, 1941
- Brewster Felter, 1941
- William C. Cooper, 1941



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Washingtonville
New York



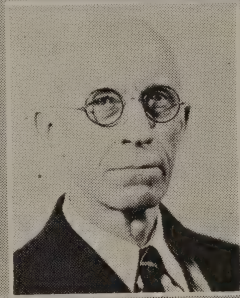
BOARD OF ELDERS



Joseph S. Cooper



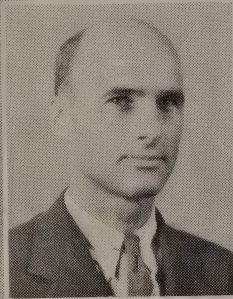
Herald Hosking



Lyman A. Gerow



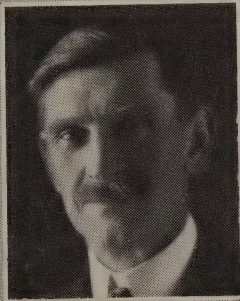
Walter D. Owen



Paul M. Traub, M. D.



Johannes Bakker



Augustus H. Wood



Charles Overfield



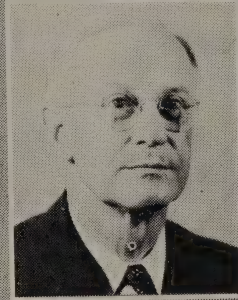
BOARD OF TRUSTEES



David H. Moffat



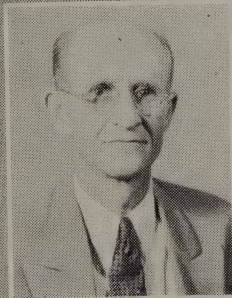
R. Lynn Tait



William C. Cooper



Raymond C. Whitehead



Thomas B. Findlay



Esten Tickner



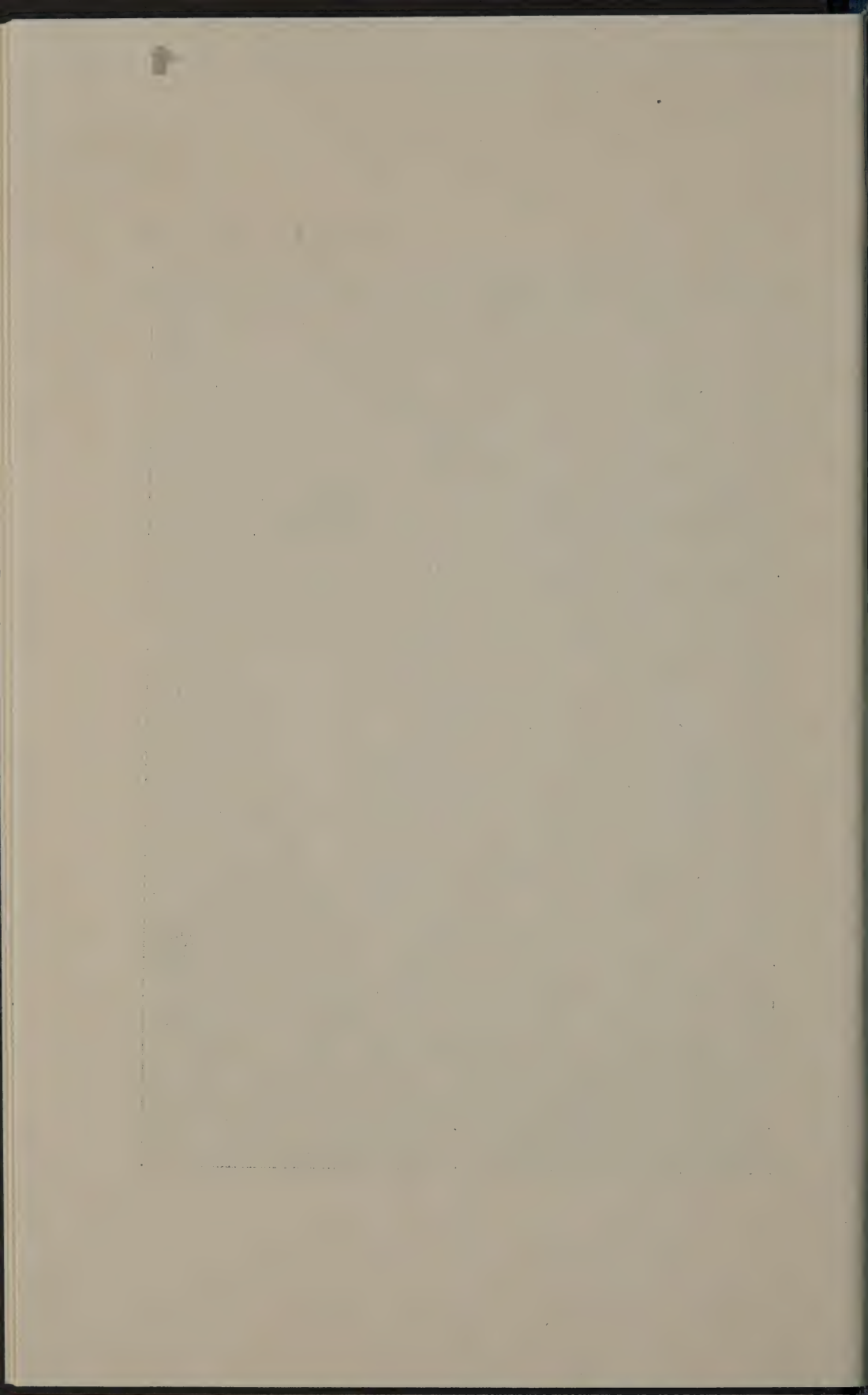
John T. Van Demark

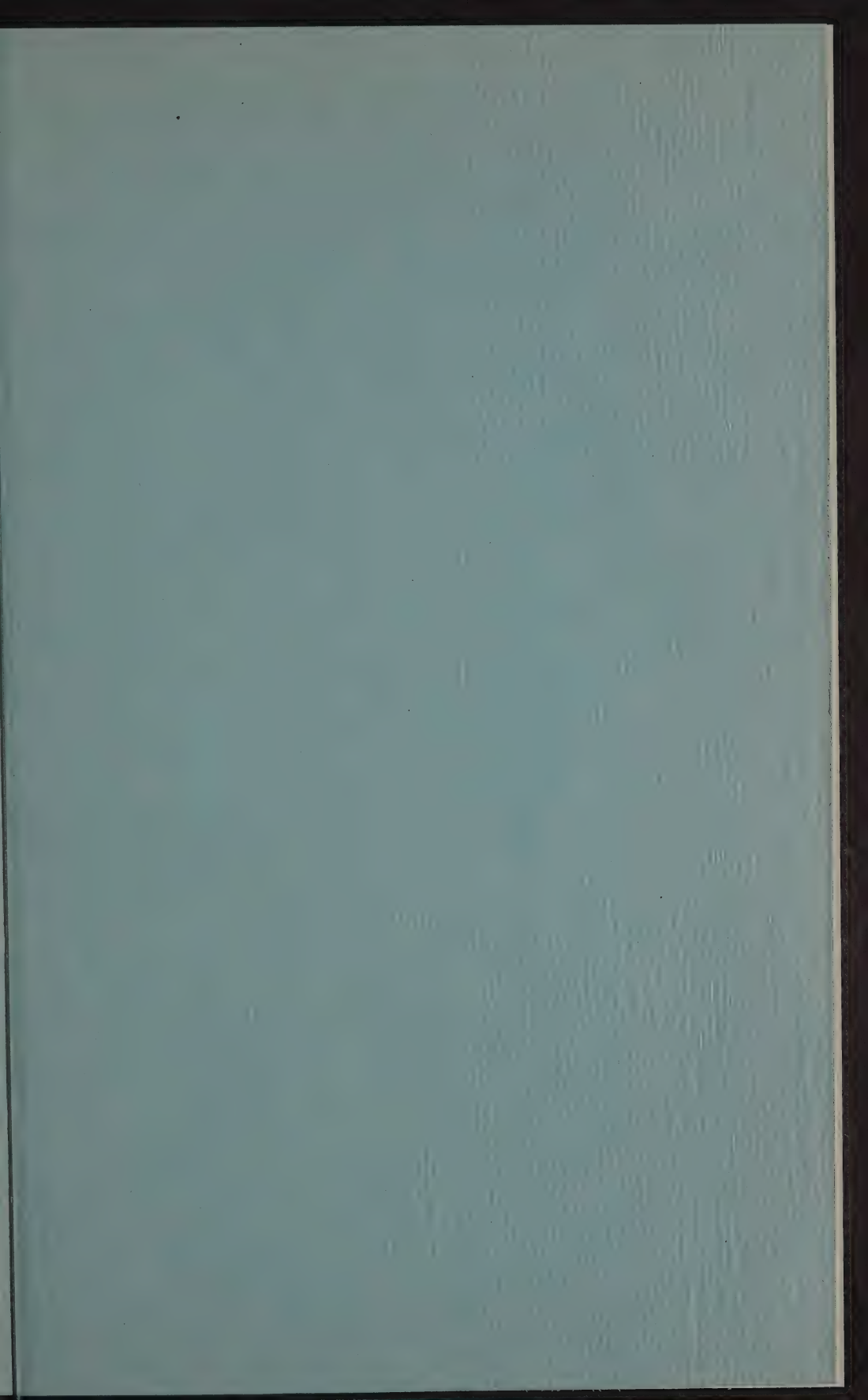


Brewster Felter

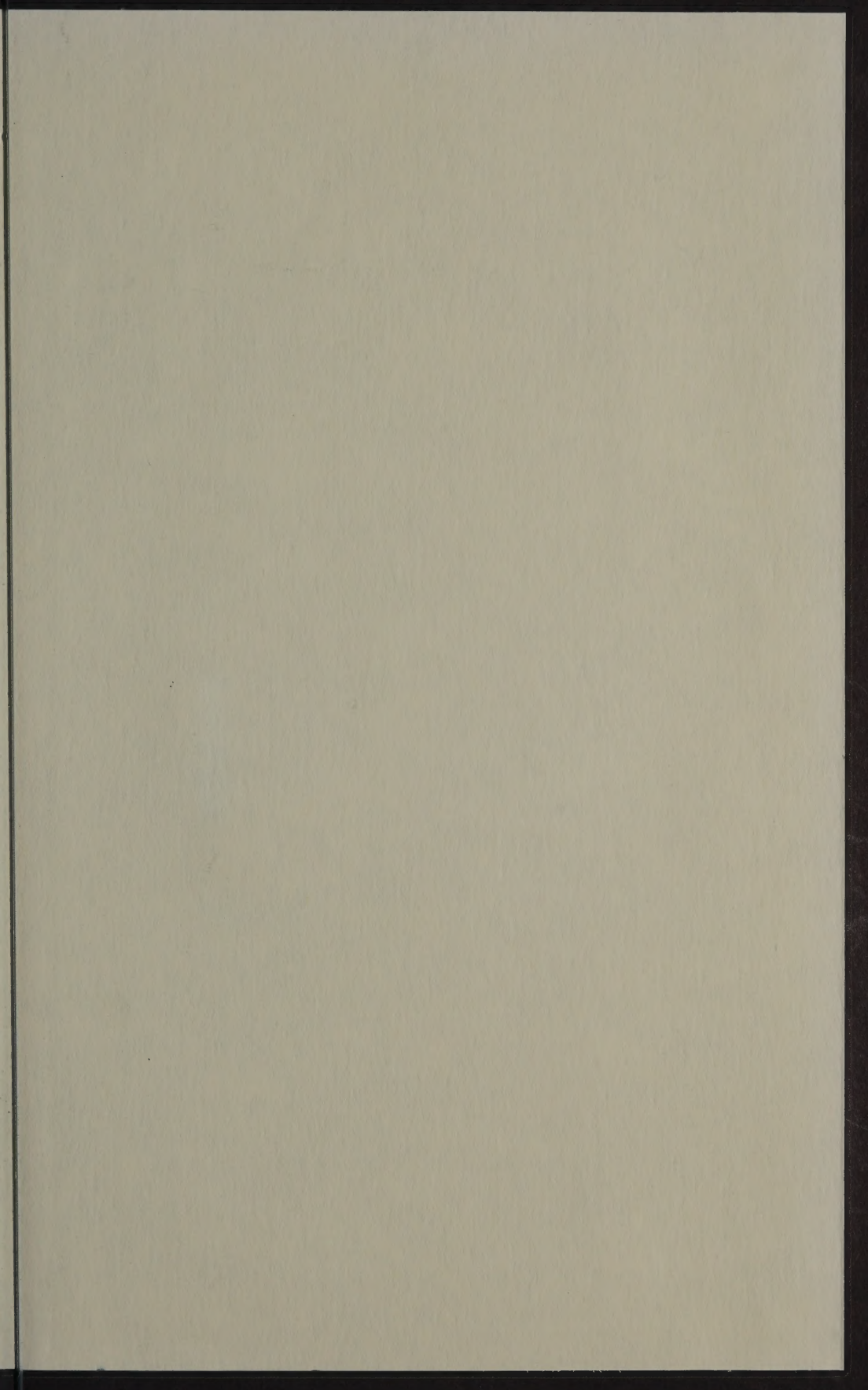


William J. Ross









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